

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, January 29, 2004

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Paul Pronold, Alicia Silva, Sandy Wolff, and Mareth Kipp. **Absent :** Carl Seitz.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisor Mark Mader, Principal Systems Analyst Ann Christman, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Ernie Messinger, Clerk of Juvenile Court Linda Martinez, Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel Steve Schmitz, Assistant Corporation Counsel Tony Jamieson, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss, Attorney Manager Maura McMahon of the State Public Defender's Office, County Board Supervisor Rodell Singert, District Attorney Paul Bucher, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, County Board Chair Jim Dwyer, Citizen Kabrina Roth, Clubhouse Manager Linda Kohl, Community Support Program Supervisor Sue Walker, and Clinical Services Manager Mike DeMares.

Health & Human Services Information Systems Update

Messinger advised they awarded the contract for the scheduling and accounts receivable software (Avatar PM) to Creative Socio Medics. They are three months behind and Purchasing staff will be writing a letter to them stating our displeasure. In particular, they are not making necessary patches to the system. Christman said this project was due to go live October 1, 2003. The scheduling part did go live and it's working well. The billing portion, however, is not fully up and running. Some modifications were not delivered on time and they're still having problems. Because of this they're doing a lot of manual intervention with the billings. Christman said she is meeting with Information Systems and Purchasing staff tomorrow to discuss these issues.

Christman said they are also working on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) computerization project. Part of this is the accounts receivable system which also involves Avatar PM. The PeopleLink portion for accounts payable is still in development. The actual due date was October 16 and staff are continuing to work on this. PeopleLink is a very dependable system and it was well developed. Maintenance is ongoing and they will upgrade the database this year.

Regarding the SACWIS child welfare program, Christman said the State will be helping them by looking at their data, how many cases will go into the system, etc. In about a week or so they will be entering the implementation phase which will last about three months. The actual vendor will meet with Health & Human Services staff every Monday to review assignments for the remainder of the week. Christman noted it will be a very intensive process. This has a go-live date of June 30 and they are on the last phase. Other counties are either up and running or in the process of going up now. Waukesha County is the last group.

The Special Living Fund (tracks client funds for those who cannot track them for themselves) replacement project has been moved to 2005 instead this year because of the current workload. Christman advised that development of the department's Intranet site and a couple other projects have also been delayed.

Ordinance 158-O-123: Authorize the Use of the Secure and Non-Secure Detention Facilities for Short Term Detention

Bucher spoke in support of this ordinance as outlined in his letter dated January 26, 2004 to Chair Herro. He said delaying the consequences for the alleged violation of that supervision or probation delays the message that we are trying to send to that person. There should be immediate consequences. He noted Waukesha County law enforcement also supports this ordinance. Martinez also spoke in favor of the ordinance on behalf of Judge VanDeWater who said it would be a swift and immediate consequence and the juvenile would get the message right away. She did not feel this would be abused by the social workers. Also, we would not lose any federal funding.

McMahon, opposed to the ordinance, distributed copies of Wis. Stat. 938.19 for informational purposes. Her main concern is what if that person, held for 72 hours, did not do what they were accused of after an investigation was completed? And if that's the case, what liability does this create for the county? She's also concerned about the possibility of coerced statements. She said the Statutes already allows for a juvenile to be taken into custody, which happens every day in this county, if they meet certain statutory criteria and that includes new law violations. Herro did not think this was what the ordinance was about. Voss said there are criteria that must be met in order to hold someone in secure detention. It doesn't cover all delinquency acts and the juvenile must be considered dangerous.

Schmitz said his understanding of the Statute as written in the ordinance is not intended to deal with new delinquency cases or allegations. What is before the committee today is the Statute which authorizes, in certain situations, someone to be taken into custody who has already been adjudged to be delinquent. He thinks it's designed for something different whereby he explained this in detail. Esler agreed that the language in the ordinance should be clarified and changed. McMahon said the information provided in the department's procedures and in the ordinance's fiscal note indicates that it's for someone who has been adjudged delinquent and who has been accused of a new offense, so it is a new delinquency issue.

Voss said they will only issue a 72-hour hold once they know the juvenile violated the conditions of supervision. Kipp was concerned that it could be hearsay and she wasn't convinced we need this. Messenger went on record saying they're simply trying to implement a policy that has been in the State Statutes for at least 7 years. To answer Herro's question, Voss was confident this would not be abused. Messenger said part of the reason was cost. They have never used lock up unless it was absolutely necessary and they avoid it whenever they can. Silva said it doesn't matter if it's the first, second or third offense and she believes juveniles are entitled to a hearing. Voss noted that Waukesha County has a low recidivism rate. McMahon said we have a lower recidivism rate than those counties that are already using the 72-hour hold so therefore, the current system is working.

The ordinance states that the 72-hour hold option will sunset in one year and would need to be reviewed again at that time in order to continue. McMahon was also concerned that once it's in place, it will be difficult to get rid of even if it's not working well. To answer Herro's question, Voss said over the next year they will track the number of placements, the length of each placement, and determine how it's impacting the daily population which includes recidivism.

Herro asked that the ordinance be changed to reflect "as a consequence for violations of conditions of supervision" and nothing else that the Statutes might authorize. Schmitz suggested after "72-hours" on line 21 in the first "ordained" paragraph, the rest of the paragraph be deleted and replaced with "as a consequence of the violation of the condition of a dispositional order if a juvenile, who has been adjudged delinquent, violates the condition." Esler suggested with that, it was necessary to also change the word "purposes" to "purpose" on line 26. And after the word "hearing" on line 9, the paragraph should read as follows: "as a consequence of violating terms of a dispositional order, further the philosophical preamble of Chapter 938 which holds juveniles accountable for their actions." Furthermore, Esler said the third paragraph should be deleted in its entirety. Silva suggested after the word "authorized" on line 20, add "using their decision making procedures,".

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Kipp to approve the amendments stated above. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to approve the ordinance as amended. Motion carried 6-0

Proposal to Expand Spring City Corner: The Clubhouse Program for Individuals with Mental Illness

DeMares distributed information on this issue including policy issue, program effects, and history and rationale. Over the years, they have seen an increase in membership at the Clubhouse which provides a safe environment for individuals with chronic and persistent mental illness to learn how to get back into the workforce. It provides vocational support, counseling, and work experience. For the last three years, the Mental Health Advisory Committee has requested additional space for the Clubhouse, what they consider a very successful program.

DeMares said the upper floor of the educational wing of the First Baptist Church has recently become vacant. This location is very close to the present Clubhouse building. The pastor is looking to rent the space which is at least 3,000 square feet for \$1,500 per month and includes utilities. Both Clubhouse and Health & Human Services staff have toured the facility. Kohl noted they have a total membership of 74 and an active membership of 54. DeMares said there isn't adequate room at the current Clubhouse to accommodate them.

DeMares said this proposal does not require additional tax levy. He said there was an adjustment in the Goodwill Program for 2004 with regards to staff time and this frees up enough dollars for 2004 to pay rent at the new facility beginning in April. They will also go on-line in either April or May on a new federal Medicaid Program called Comprehensive Community Services which will allow them to charge the Federal Government the federal Medicaid share – 60% of our expenses for someone who may be involved in Clubhouse or one of our other programs.

DeMares said he is confident they will have additional revenues to use towards rent at the new facility. If not, they can make program adjustments to offset the expenditures.

A Clubhouse member was present to speak in support of the program. Messinger said as they've gone through the budget process over the last couple of years, they've asked DeMares which programs he believes are the most successful and not to touch. The Clubhouse is always at the top of his list. This program utilizes a relatively small amount of money and helps a lot of people.

A consensus of the committee supported expanding the Clubhouse by spending \$13,500 for rent for April through December, 2004.

Tour Spring City Corner (The Clubhouse)

This issue was heldover due to time constraints.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

Herro advised the next committee meeting was scheduled for February 12. The committee will meet at Spring City Corner at 12:00 p.m. for lunch and then reconvene at the courthouse for the remainder of the meeting starting at 1:30 p.m.

Approve Minutes of January 15, 2004

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Wolff to approve the minutes of January 15. Motion carried 6-0.

Announcements

Messinger said they recently held meetings with over 100 parents of Autistic children as well as State staff. One of the issues discussed were the individual service plans. The State had indicated that the average amount of case management time would only be one hour. Messinger said, unfortunately that number is not realistic and it would not fund the case managers they hire. The discussions with the parents centered on what's realistic and the new approach which has fewer services available. He noted the State took some "shots" by some upset parents, understandably so.

MOTION: Kipp moved, second by Wolff to adjourn at 3:51 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary